

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2009

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Office of Chief Counsel
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Room 835
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472-3100

Re: Docket ID FEMA-2005-0051, Special Community Disaster Loans Program

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to swiftly finalize the Special Community Disaster Loan (CDL) forgiveness regulations and expedite the application and review process. In addition, we encourage FEMA to take into full consideration the points made by East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) and other CDL recipients when finalizing the regulations.

It has been over two years since Congress authorized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to forgive these loans. During that time, we wrote letters of our dissatisfaction with the delay and asked FEMA to issue these draft regulations as quickly as possible. While we are pleased to see that this process is finally moving forward, we strongly urge you to work as expeditiously as possible to finalize these regulations.

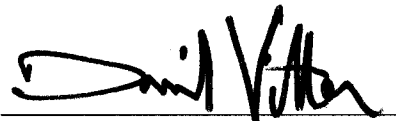
The recipients of these loans serve as the backbone of our communities and their financial stability is an essential ingredient to our recovery efforts. Like the many other CDL recipients, EJGH fought to keep its doors open and provide the community with essential services, and the CDL was an important means by which these services were made available and continue to be provided today.

We stand committed to seeing this issue move forward and therefore strongly urge you to expedite the loan forgiveness review process. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Mary Lapanieu
U.S. Senator



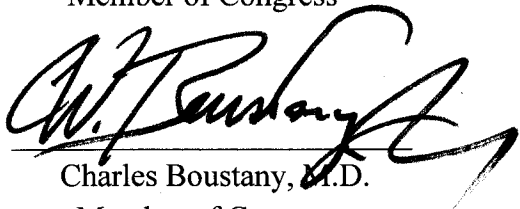
David Vitter
U.S. Senator



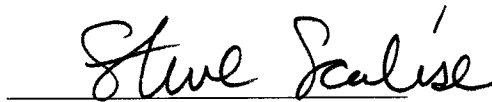
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



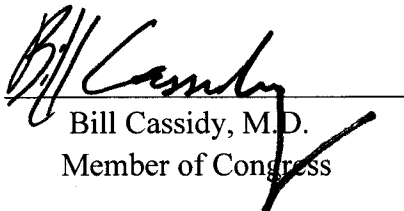
Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



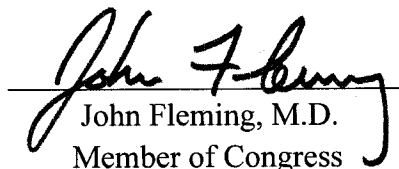
Charles Boustany, M.D.
Member of Congress



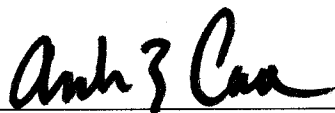
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress